Subject: **Michigan Selects E-Team Application as the State's Critical Incident Management System (CIMS)**

Attention: **Local, District and State Agency Emergency Management Coordinators, State Planning Team Members, Michigan Emergency Response Organizations**

The Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division (EMD) in cooperation with the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has selected the E-Team Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) as the software application to be deployed as the statewide enterprise emergency response and preparedness information management system.

The Emergency Management Division's goal in developing this system is to be able to provide a free or low cost web based information management system that can be used by all agencies, whether in fixed facilities or by field personnel, during response operations. This goal is based, in part, on the lessons learned from 9/11 and other large scale events where interoperability was a critical problem that affected efficient response. Use of a common software application statewide will enhance the state and local ability to prepare for and respond to natural, technological and Homeland Security events.

E-Team was selected for its varied capabilities, ease of use, scalability and ability to integrate with the state's GIS system. Since it is a web-based application, E-Team allows users with appropriate security to access the system from fixed and field facilities. This will allow both response and recovery personnel to enter information into the system and have it mapped in the GIS system in real-time. These maps can be shared between facilities and changes made by users.

By providing an enterprise system, the state is seeking a common information management system that will reduce or eliminate past problems with initial event reporting and response coordination, resource requests, damage assessment reporting, public information, and recovery operations. The ultimate structure of the system (multiple servers) will provide a robust system that is more reliable during emergencies. If events escalate, federal agencies, other states, and critical response organizations, can be granted access to the system and immediately have access to all event data and more effectively begin response operations.

Pre-event resources lists, contact lists, maps, plans/procedures and other information can be entered into the system by users from any location with web access. All users with approved sharing access can view that information, and update it as necessary.

The development of this enterprise system is currently a high priority for EMD as a critical element of the Homeland Security effort. The EMD foresees major benefits to the entire emergency management community in the state and our federal partners by deploying a common CIMS.

The current project timeline calls for the purchase of the Enterprise license in January 2004 and then begin a rollout of the application to users. Because of the large-scale nature of this project, the EMD plans to initially target five state agencies (MSP, MDCH, MDA, DEQ and DNR), three to four local emergency management programs and two regional medical response coalitions as in-depth pilot projects. This will allow the system administrators to gain experience in establishing the system structure and building templates for adding other state and local agencies to the system. This should be completed by early summer of 2004. In the event of an emergency or disaster, the affected communities can be added onto the system quickly. During the August 2003 power outage, new SEOC personnel were briefed on E-Team and were able to begin using the Duty Log and Resource Management functions within 15-20 minutes.

The initial deployment to state agencies will be within the state's IT firewalls. Local agencies will need to have access to the servers via secure access. The EMD is working with DIT Security to ensure that all security concerns are addressed.

The EMD will be working with state and local programs over the next couple of months to define interest and provide guidelines and information needs that will assist us in deploying E-Team in a consistent and user-friendly manner. Since this is a first-in-the-nation project, there will be a lot of questions and challenges for everyone involved in the project. Please contact Mr. Daniel Sibo at sibod@michigan.gov if you have any questions. Additional information will be posted on the EMD web site as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

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  and Emergency Management

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